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'Evil Genius' is Netflix's next great crime documentary. 17

ART IN THE WILD

Your guide to the season's best public art. 20-21

GETTY IMAGES

Mother's Day is a great time to be a freebie-loving mom. 23

WHEN POLLEN ATTACKS

It may be spring, but that doesn't mean it's all sunshine and rainbows. Thanks to a brutally long winter, the pollen is packing an extra punch this year, and your body is taking the hit. 4

Rant & Win $
TURN TO PAGE 16

New Game Scrabble
TURN TO PAGE 33

ISTOCK

Mesoraco provides Mets with new enigma. 28

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO.US

MORGAN ROUSSEAU, MANAGING EDITOR

I grew up in the country, where flowers and trees bloomed. A beautiful sight, but there was a dark side: I was asthmatic, and these gorgeous plants released allergens that made it feel impossible to breathe. I remember opening our refrigerator on grueling days (there was no A/C in the country — we kept our windows open) and breathing in the fresh, clean, cold air for relief. Now, years later, living in New York City, I'm glad to say that my allergies have somewhat improved. But the suffering of millions continues as pollen wreaks havoc on the Northeast. Find out why it's happening and what to do about it on page 4.

1 COMPANIES' PAYMENTS TO TRUMP LAWYER RELEASED

An attorney for porn star Stormy Daniels said he has additional evidence linking a Russian businessman to President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, as international and U.S. companies on Wednesday acknowledged large payments to Cohen's consulting firm. Swiss drugmaker Novartis AG and U.S. telecommunications company AT&T Inc. said they made payments to Cohen's firm, Essential Consultants, in efforts to gain intelligence into the Trump administration's thinking on issues affecting them. Novartis and AT&T said they were contacted by the office of special counsel Robert Mueller about the situation in late 2017, and provided all the information requested. Both companies said they now consider the matter closed. A senior official at Novartis told NBC News that Cohen reached out shortly after Trump's November 2016 election win "promising access" to the new administration. Payments to the companies "may well have been used to influence the president of the United States, using Michael Cohen and his shell company as a conduit," Sen. Richard Blumenthal said at a news conference.

2 AMERICANS FREED BY N. KOREA THANK TRUMP

North Korea released three American prisoners and handed them over to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday, clearing a major obstacle to an unprecedented summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The men, who were freed after Pompeo met Kim, were on their way home aboard the chief U.S. diplomat's plane, and Trump said he would greet them when they arrived at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington on Thursday morning. "We would like to express our deep appreciation to the United States government, President Trump, Secretary Pompeo, and the people of the United States for bringing us home," the three said in a statement released by the State Department as their plane stopped over in Alaska. "We thank God, and all our families and friends who prayed for us and for our return. God Bless America, the greatest nation in the world." The release, praised by the White House as a "gesture of goodwill," appeared to signal an effort by Kim to set a more favorable tone for the summit and followed his recent pledge to suspend missile tests and shut a nuclear bomb test site.

3 DAILY LIFE IN TEHRAN AFTER IRAN DEAL IS DUMPED BY UNITED STATES

Iranians burn American flags during an anti-U.S. demonstration outside the former U.S. embassy headquarters in Tehran, Iran, on Wednesday. President Donald Trump pulled out of the 2015 deal that put limits on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for rapprochement with the West.

GETTY IMAGES

4 SYRIAN MEDIA: ISRAEL FIRES ROCKETS INTO SYRIA

Israel launched repeated rounds of rocket fire into Syria early on Thursday, Syrian state media reported, after Israel's military said Iranian forces in Syria had shelled one of its outposts near the border. The scale of Israeli rocket fire appeared to be far higher than in previous incidents and Damascus residents described seeing explosions above the city from air defense systems. Tensions between Israel and Iran have threatened to spill over in Syria, where the Iranian military and allied Shi'ite militia are backing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in his war against rebels. "The Syrian air defenses are confronting a new wave of Israeli aggression rockets and downing them one after the other," state news agency SANA reported. Syrian state television was broadcasting footage of its air defenses firing at incoming rockets and playing patriotic songs. Israel's military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said Israel had retaliated for an attack on its outposts in the strategic Golan Heights plateau. The late-night incident followed a surge in tensions between Israel and Syria, where Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah forces have been helping Damascus beat back a seven-year-old rebellion.

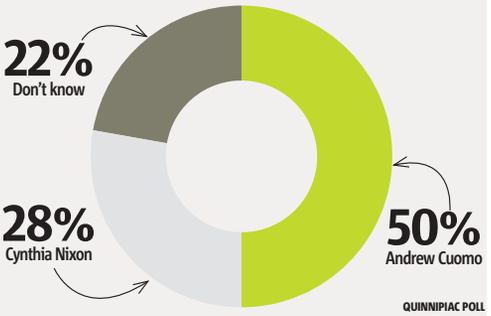
5 WHITE HOUSE REVIEWS DRONE REGULATIONS

The U.S. Transportation Department has sent two proposed rules to the White House to regulate the increased use of unmanned aerial vehicles, the agency said on Wednesday as it prepared to unveil the winners of new drone pilot projects. One of the new rules would allow drones to fly over people while the other would allow for remote identification and tracking of unmanned aircraft in flight. After both are formally proposed, it would take months or even more than a year before they are finalized. Current rules prohibit nighttime drone flights or operations over people without a waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA has no requirements or voluntary standards for electrically broadcasting information to identify an unmanned aircraft. Several incidents around major airports have involved drones getting close to aircraft. The National Transportation Safety Board said in December a September collision between a small civilian drone and a U.S. Army helicopter was caused by the drone operator's failure to see the helicopter because he was intentionally flying the drone out of visual range.

STATS

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

If the Democratic primary for governor were being held today, for whom would you vote?



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'Tis the season of runny noses: Pollen dump sickens locals

One of the coldest Aprils in recent memory led trees to start spewing out more pollen faster than ever this year.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Unusually large quantities of pollen grains in the air are causing a worse than usual bout of seasonal allergies across the East Coast this year. COURTESY OF THE ASTHMA CENTER

Waking up with a scratchy throat. Sneezing. Dry, hacking coughs. Most people suffer from seasonal allergies, but this year has been especially bad: Experts confirm that erratic temperatures and a steep escalation of hot weather has caused a massive tree pollen dump that may make this year's round of seasonal allergies the worst in recent memory.

"It's really bad right now," said Dr. Donald Dvorin of The Asthma Center, a New Jersey-based medical practice with offices in Philadelphia. "This year is definitely a worse year, no doubt about it. People are complaining."

Pollen counts peaked in Dvorin's area on Friday, May 4, with an astonishing 7,000 pollen grains per cubic meter of air. As of May 9, that number was around 2,000, still considered an "extreme" level of pollen. (Less than a 100 count of tree pollen is considered normal.) He said that within 10 days, he expects pollen levels to go lower, but we won't be back to normal for a long time, as other species continue releasing pollen due to warm weather.

Recent reports show that, nationwide, April 2018 was overall one of the coldest Aprils in 20 years. It was the coldest April since 1997, and the 13th coldest April in recorded U.S. history, meteorologists said. So instead of trees gradually releasing their pollen over the course of the month, pollen began dumping out of trees in late April and early May as temperatures rose precipitously.

"We really had a very strange season," Dvorin said. "March was strange. We had some warming, then we had all that bad snowy weather that shut everything down, that shut down the trees. April warmed up and everything came out at once."

POLLEN FAST FACTS

Spring has sprung and, as a result, so has pollen. The allergic reaction to pollen is known as hay fever. According to the CDC, based on a 2016 survey over a 12-month period, 16 million adults in the U.S. were diagnosed with it.

What is pollen?
Pollen, also called flower sperm, is a fine powder of microspores produced by male plants that enables fertilization. It's easily dispersed by the wind, and according to Live Science, a cubic meter of air can contain thousands of pollen grains.

Why am I allergic to pollen?
Susan Waserman, professor of medicine at Canada's McMaster University, told Live Science that we often become allergic to things we've been exposed to as children — one of these being pollen. Allergies in general (anything from dog and cat hair to food) develop when your immune system treats the allergens as a threat, even if they're harmless. This is called sensitization. "If you've got that genetic tendency to become sensitized, the huge amount of pollen you breathe in and out can easily lead to sensitization," Waserman explained.

How to prevent or reduce an allergic reaction to pollen.
The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) suggests limiting your exposure to the outdoors, keeping windows closed when pollen counts are high and taking allergy medicine like antihistamines and decongestants prior to pollen season (better start now if you haven't). It also suggests bathing daily to rinse off any pollen that may have collected on your skin and hair while outdoors, as well as washing sheets at least once a week. SAM BRODSKY

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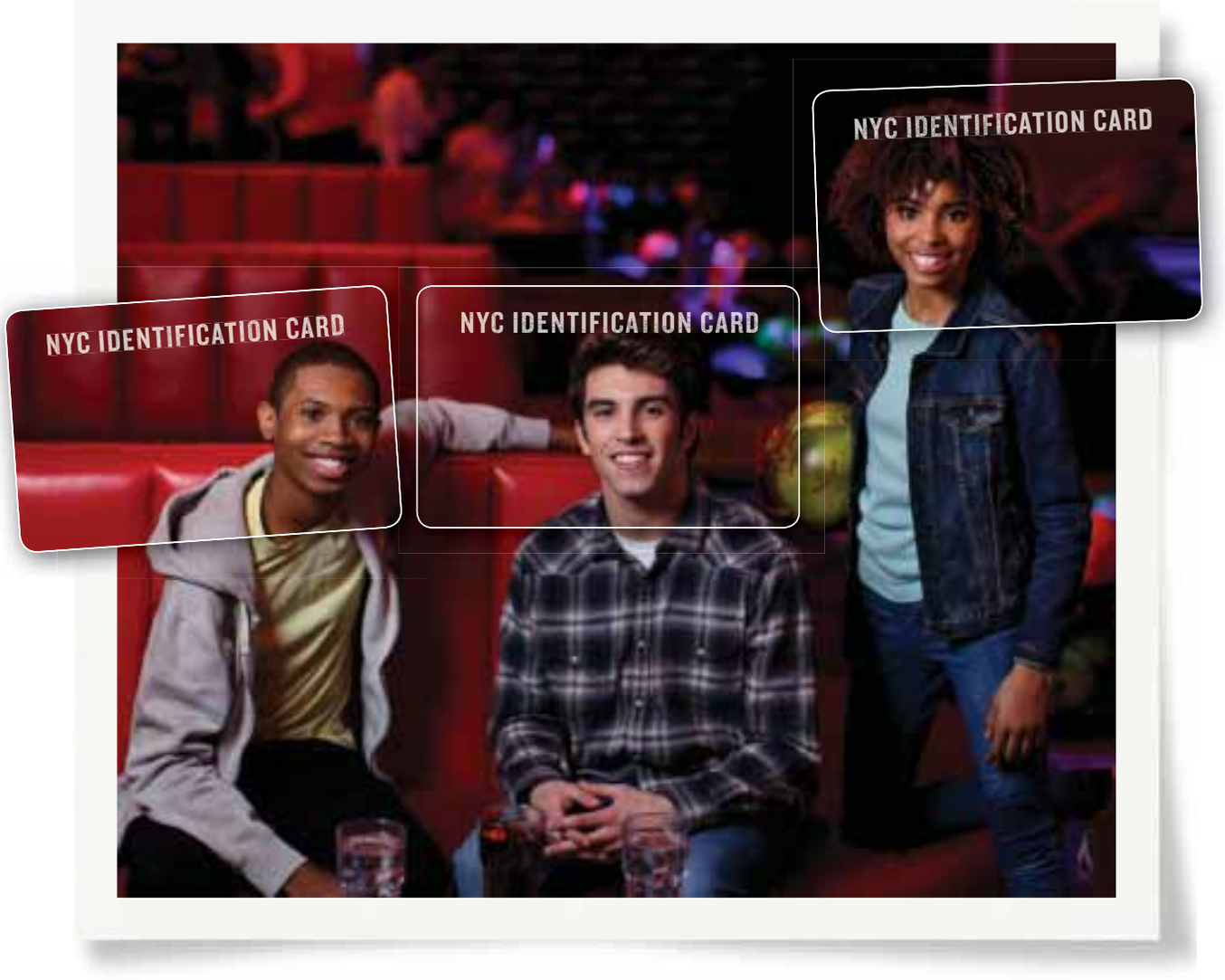

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Community solar garden coming to the South Bronx

The project will generate enough solar energy to power 125 New York City apartments.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

A local startup is offering New Yorkers a way to help the environment and get a discount on their electric bill, all without actually putting solar panels on your roof.

PowerMarket, a software company in the community solar industry, has launched a new solar project in the South Bronx, for which anyone in the five boroughs is eligible to join.

PowerMarket is a member of the New York University's Urban Future Lab, an incubator for clean energy businesses, and it's focused on bringing community solar throughout New York City and beyond.

Community solar is a way to get environmental and financial benefits of solar power without installing panels yourself. Residents can rent solar panels in a community garden, which is connected to the local energy grid, and see the savings on their electric bill.

1,200

With more than 1,200 panels, the solar garden can supply energy to 125 NYC apartments.

This model is especially great for city-dwellers, said Nick Baudouin, co-founder of PowerMarket, since apartment renters would never have the option of installing solar panels on their roof.

"People don't interact with energy; you turn a switch and a light goes on. We want people to interact with energy differently," he said. "Living in an urban environment, a lot of people just assume, 'I can't go solar,' and we want to be able to make sure there are other options out there for them."

The South Bronx project is located on a rooftop in the Port Morris neighborhood. With more than 1,200 panels, it can supply energy to 125 New York City apartments.

The community solar farm in the South Bronx has more than 1,200 solar panels. THE POWER MARKET

Small businesses, depending on their electricity use, are eligible for this community solar garden, too. Those businesses, as well as any resident who joins the project, is guaranteed to see savings on their energy bill, Baudouin said.

For renters, "every month, we'll try to put enough credit to offset your ConEd bill completely, or [make it] close to zero," he said. For business owners, "we can guarantee to save them over $750 a year. … That's really a win for smaller New York businesses."

The project is currently taking on applicants and expected to begin in August. You can sign up by going to thepowermarket.com and choosing the South Bronx project. If it fills up before you can get onboard, don't worry, Baudouin said, because there are more projects in the pipeline.

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The president's lawyers have set a deadline of May 17 — one year since Mueller's appointment — to decide whether the president will submit to an interview. GETTY IMAGES

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Trump practiced for Mueller interview with his legal team. It didn't go well

He only got through two questions about the Russia investigation in four hours.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

President Trump and his legal team recently did a four-hour practice session for a potential interview with special counsel Robert Mueller about the Russia investigation, and the president had some difficulty, only getting through two questions.

Trump had trouble staying on topic "given the frequent interruptions on national-security matters along with Mr. Trump's loquaciousness," the Wall Street Journal reported, citing "one person familiar with the matter."

The president's lawyers have set a deadline of May 17 — one year since Mueller's appointment — to decide whether the president will submit to an interview in the Russia investigation, the Journal said. Trump's legal team now includes Emmet Flood, who represented Bill Clinton during his impeachment proceedings, and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Trump's previous lawyers Ty Cobb and John Dowd left the building last month and the month before that, respectively.

Giuliani came aboard explaining that he would handle "negotiations" for an interview between Trump and Mueller. Those seem to have run aground. On Monday, Giuliani said that their preferred format for an interview — a list of written questions and responses — had been rejected by Mueller.

CBS News reported Monday that Giuliani says his team wants a list of subjects that would be covered, a time limit and an assurance on whether the content would be made public. If an agreement can't be reached and Trump is subpoenaed, Giuliani said Trump would fight the subpoena to the Supreme Court.

"Anyone can see [Trump] has great difficulty staying on a subject."
An insider, speaking to The Wall Street Journal

Trump has repeatedly said that he wants to talk with Mueller. His lawyers are eager for him not to, given the president's issues with truth-telling and focus. "Anyone can see [Trump] has great difficulty staying on a subject," an insider told the Journal.

Giuliani has said that Trump would not have to respond to a subpoena. Legal experts have argued that United States v. Nixon, in which the Supreme Court ruled that President Richard Nixon had to comply with a subpoena for his Oval Office tapes, as precedent that a president must obey a subpoena.

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Iranian demonstrators burn a picture of President Donald Trump during a protest in front of the former U.S. Embassy on Wednesday in Tehran, Iran. GETTY IMAGES

THE FOREMAN FORECAST: IRAN, YOU RAN, WE RAN

ANALYSIS

TOM FOREMAN

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously."

When it comes to changing jobs, homes, or social circles, I have a rule: Don't just run away from something bad — run toward something better. A more promising profession. A more welcoming domicile. Friendlier friends. Sure, it's fun in a fit of pique to storm off, but that strategy — say after an argument with your spouse — can leave you roaming around at night with no car, no wallet and nowhere to go. So like I said, head toward something, not just away from something else.

I mention this because President Trump is heading strongly away from the Iran nuclear deal set up under President Obama; you know, the one in which Iran agreed to stop its nuclear development program in exchange for the U.S. and its allies dropping economic sanctions. Trump never liked the plan. He said it was poorly designed, one-sided and not good for American interests. "This disastrous deal gave this regime — and it's a regime of great terror — many billions of dollars," he declared. Harrumph.

He has promised for some time that this move was coming, so it was no surprise. And yes, presidents have that prerogative. They can trash the policies of their predecessors. What is unclear, however, is what allegedly better plan Trump has in mind.

While American allies have erupted with concern over the potential fallout over abandoning the old deal, Team Trump has offered precious few details into how a new one might be reached. The administration has suggested in a vague sense that fresh economic sanctions will pressure the Iranians to return to negotiations, but many foreign affairs analysts are skeptical. A new deal, they say, would require buy-in from many other countries, which seems unlikely considering how hard it was to get them to the table the first time. And, in any event, it would need Iranian agreement and why would they offer it after Trump just spiked the deal they already had?

Again, the president can do what he wants and lead where he pleases, but on the Iran deal, it is not at all clear where he is going — or if even he knows.

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Corgis convene in Herald Square to celebrate Lifetime's 'Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance'

We can't help but wonder if the real royal wedding will be as cute as the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's canine counterparts.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
nikki.mascali@metro.us

Corgis took over Herald Square in New York City to celebrate the premiere of Lifetime's "Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance" — and, of course, the impending nuptials of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. GETTY IMAGES

The world has been eagerly awaiting the royal wedding of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry for months — and that includes Corgis, Queen Elizabeth's preferred breed of pooches, which took over Herald Square Tuesday afternoon in anticipation of the world premiere of Lifetime's "Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance" on Sunday.

"Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance" chronicles the courtship and love story of Prince Harry, played by Murray Fraser, and Markle, who is portrayed by Parisa Fitz-Henley.

Attendees of Tuesday's "Royal Corgi Court" event were treated to the sights of a Corgi red carpet, a mini-Windsor-on-the-Hudson Castle playhouse for the pups and all the pomp one would expect from a royal wedding-themed event — including two stoic, fur hat-wearing human members of the Queen's Guard.

But wait, there's more! The Corgis had their own royal wedding as well, as the Corgi counterparts of Prince William, Duchess

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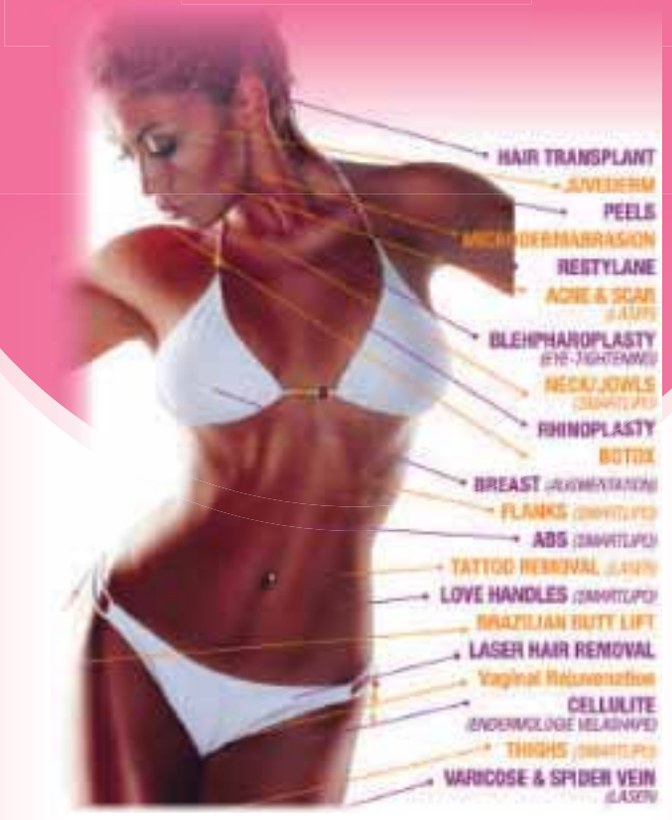

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Attendees of Tuesday's "Royal Corgi Court" event were treated to the sights of a Corgi red carpet. GETTY IMAGES

Catherine, Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Queen Elizabeth were in attendance for the royal romance of the canine Prince Harry and Markle, who had a bit of a wardrobe malfunction as her jeweled tiara wouldn't stay put.

"Royal Corgi Court" certainly was an adorable way to whet our appetites for Sunday's premiere of "Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance," which airs at 8 p.m. on Lifetime, and for the *real* royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The much-watched couple will marry on May 19 at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. The nuptials will take place at noon, London time, or 7 a.m. ET, and you can expect it to dominate TV for much of the day, which, in our opinion, is totally deserving because how often do we get to see a true royal wedding?

The only question that remains is how many Corgis will be there to watch Prince Harry and Meghan Markle walk down the aisle for real.

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Weight loss and relationships: Not always a match made in heaven

Study shows weight loss can lead to more confidence — and a breakup.

MEAGAN MORRIS
letters@metro.us

Weight loss is often a positive step toward a healthy — and longer — life. However, it doesn't always bode well for relationships, at least according to a recent study by Swedish researchers.

According to the study, obese people who went through weight loss surgery were twice as likely to get into a relationship as peers who only received weight-loss advice. However, the study also found that obese people in long-term relationships and had weight loss surgery were 28 percent more likely to break up or divorce than peers who didn't have surgery.

Why weight loss and relationships don't always mix

The study results — taken from data published in the Swedish Obese Subjects Study and the Scandinavian Obesity Surgery Registry — aren't surprising to many obesity and relationship experts. Weight loss can help increase confidence and overall happiness, but it can also shake the foundation of relationships built when one (or both) partners are heavy.

"Sometimes, partners are threatened by the weight loss and that jealousy can cause problems," David Sarwer, director of the Center for Obesity Research and Education at Temple University's College of Public Health, told the Los Angeles

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Times.

"I was dating a heavy girl who I was really into. She was sexy, and we had a great time together. Then, she got weight-loss surgery. She could no longer drink, and she had to eat teeny-tiny meals," one man told Thrillist. "Losing weight seemed to make her happy, but our relationship dissolved because we couldn't go out and have fun together anymore."

And the newfound confidence — and lifestyle changes — can magnify cracks in a relationship.

"I loved going out to parties, and I wanted Jonathan [her husband] to come with me," Melanie Slinger told the Daily Mail of her life after losing a large amount of weight.

"But he wanted to stay at home, sitting in front of the television — just as we had always done in the past," she continued. "Our rows grew increasingly bitter. He was jealous of the fact that I was going out — and I resented the fact that he didn't want me to enjoy my newfound confidence."

Slinger's weight loss eventually led to a divorce.

HOW TO LOSE WEIGHT AND SAVE A RELATIONSHIP

Weight loss and relationships don't have to be oil and water.

"The problem is that unlike losing a job or experiencing the death of a child, many people don't recognize drastic weight loss as a life-changing event, and therefore are not prepared for the changes it brings about," Armando Gonzalez, a relationship and family therapist also known as Dr. Mondo, wrote on his website.

Communication — about feelings and resentments — is key. "As I like to say, 'It's a season, not a sentence' — meaning, while your relationships will go through a period of transformation, it doesn't mean they will be ruined forever."

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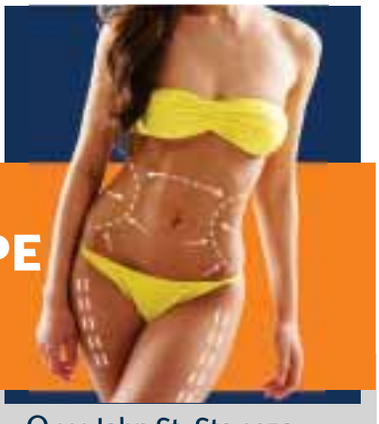

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Beer, bars and babies — do they mix? ISTOCK

the GRUMBLE

Strollers in bars are a buzzkill!

Pat King
Metro Reporter

One of life's greatest joys is slipping down to the neighborhood watering hole after a tough day to help you, well, forget about life altogether. It's a rite of passage. Sitting with your friends or coworkers with a couple cold ones at is a right that you've earned and is one of the best ways to help you get over the waking nightmare that has been your workweek.

Until you find yourself crashing into a fleet of bulky strollers after ordering a round and watching as your fresh can of Tecate and tequila shot combo go crashing to the floor. Oh, the horror!

So the question is: Why do parents who bring strollers into bars have to be such buzzkills? We get that losing your favorite happy hour after you've had a child is a tough thing to deal with. But why ruin it for the rest of us?

Besides, I'm sure your baby is not going to appreciate me choosing 10 Thin Lizzy songs in a row on the jukebox nestled in the corner. So why even bother carting that stroller in?

VENT TO US!
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@MOREKOWBEL
There should be a rule that you're not allowed to bring newborns/strollers into bars. Specifically ones that have "beer" in their name.

@ALEX_PULSONE
There were strollers in the bars today with music so loud you couldn't hear people talk.....why are you doing that to your child .....

@DRHASTINGS
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@GOCHRISSYGO
I'm all for the drinking, but baby strollers in bars are sooo in my way

@ANGERMONKEY
GAH, so many babies lately. Babies babies babies. On social media and in my bars. Blocking things with giant strollers. BABIES: WHY?

@SMELLMANDA
Strollers don't belong in bars!!

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Hello, strollers! These take up valuable real estate in already-crowded bars and restaurants. ISTOCK

There's a time and a place for baby strollers, and the bar ain't one of them. ISTOCK

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Aries Don't get angry when you should get moving. It's up to you to take care of your responsibilities and to protect your position and reputation. Finish what you start.

Taurus Gather as much information as possible. Knowledge is power, and being able to use what you learn to your advantage will bring you closer to the success.

Gemini Get your facts straight before you voice your opinion. An emotional situation will escalate if you let someone from your past interfere in your personal life. Truth matters.

Cancer Share your insight and offer suggestions. Get involved in activities or events that will expand your association with people sharing your beliefs or heading down a similar path.

Leo Observation will help you get to know and understand your peers better. Discovering what others have to offer will put you in a good position. Prepare for an unexpected change.

Virgo Travel, conferences, trade shows and communications are all favored. Let your intuition guide you when dealing with peers or people you can learn something from. Someone you least expect will disappoint you.

Libra Domestic problems will surface. Added responsibilities will get to you, and criticism and demands will lead to a dispute. Take a break, relax and focus on personal growth.

Scorpio Sign up for something artistic, unusual or entertaining. The diversion will do you good and give you plenty to think about. Be open to trying something new.

Sagittarius A change will do you good. Make plans with a good friend or get together with colleagues to talk shop. Networking and focusing on getting ahead is encouraged.

Capricorn Apply your skills to accommodate new trends or look for diverse ways to use your services and attributes. Offering something unique will drum up interest and opportunity.

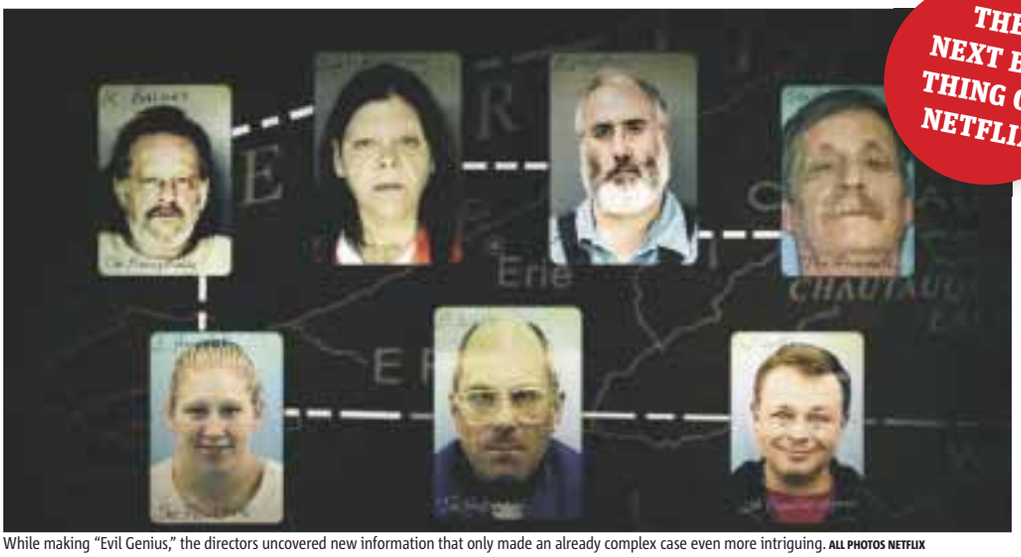
Aquarius Don't let anyone talk you into taking on too much or coax you into doing something that is not good for you. Bad habits will be difficult to break.

Pisces Use your imagination when it comes to money matters. An opportunity to invest in something unique will result in personal gains and growth. Someone close to you will be evasive or disappoint you. EUGENIA LAST

The bank robbery that shook America

The death of Brian Wells unfolds like a "parlor game" in "Evil Genius," the next great true-crime doc.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us



While making "Evil Genius," the directors uncovered new information that only made an already complex case even more intriguing. ALL PHOTOS NETFLIX

There's no denying that Netflix dominates the crime-documentary genre.

Hot on the heels of "Making a Murderer," "Amanda Knox," "Wild Wild Country" and "Casting JonBenet," to name a few, is "Evil Genius: The True Story of America's Most Diabolical Bank Heist." The series explores the death of pizza delivery man Brian Wells in August 2003, who robbed a bank with an explosive device strapped to his neck, which then detonated when he was surrounded by police. A former girlfriend, Marjorie Diehl-Armstrong, was convicted in his murder in 2010, but some people who worked the case believe the perpetrator was someone else.

"I basically started to scratch the surface at the time that it happened," says co-director Trey Borzillieri, who spent years interviewing one of the suspects. He lived near Erie, Pennsylvania, where the robbery happened, and says the story got complicated fast.

"Soon after information emerged that there was evidence at the scene that Wells had been put up to do this," he recalls. "That authorities had found a frozen body near the site where Wells had been asked to make the pizza delivery. The FBI was saying that the frozen body wasn't related. But I just had to know more. It became this elusive mystery."

Putting together the story was a challenge, says co-director Barbara Schroeder. "Because of the heist and then the other layers of new information that come out in the film, we could have written it 100 different ways and shown it from a lot of different perspectives," she says.

Each additional piece of information took the case in a new direction, but so far none of them have been the whole story, which the doc is able to tell because in the making of "Evil Genius," new facts were uncovered.

"Up until this series the media, the public, they have heard [only] one side of the story," she says.

"It is kind of eerie as it unfolds," adds Borzillieri. "Because it is like a parlor game. You are like, 'Who is the mastermind? Who wrote the notes?' It is a really interactive and multi-layered caper.

"We are really hoping that the viewers, don't just follow along with the story, but can feel it is a participatory journey."

"Evil Genius" is released on Netflix on Friday.

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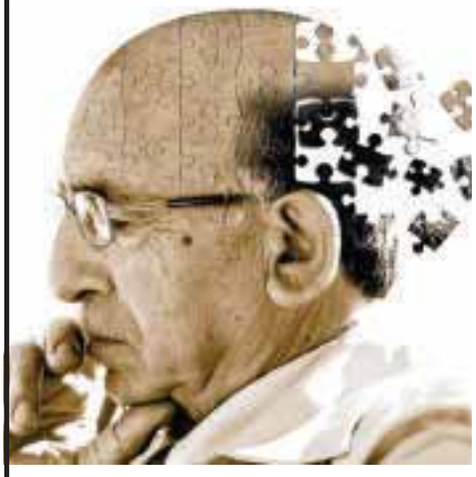
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Hawke stars in the BBC adaptation of "Little Women" as Jo March.
ALL PHOTOS RAHOUL GHOSE/PBS

'Little Women' returns to TV

Daughter of Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke shines in Mother's Day miniseries debut.

HENRIETTA JONES
letters@metro.us

Maya Hawke illuminates the screen in her debut as Jo in "Little Women," Masterpiece's new miniseries based on the book by Louisa May Alcott. Set against the backdrop of the Civil War, the three-episode series is a coming-of-age drama about the once-wealthy March family and their four daughters.

"Little Women" has always been narrative comfort food, with dozens of film and TV adaptations made of the novel (including a ballet and opera). However, the Masterpiece miniseries, airing Sunday, brings a deeper interpretation to what is often served up as a saccharine story.

In this adaptation, the March sisters, each presented in the opening credits as different flowers blooming together, are given space to develop by director Vanessa Caswill and writer Heidi Thomas.

Beth (Annes Elwy) suffers from crippling shyness; Amy (Kathryn Newton) has a mean streak that would challenge Regina George (making viewers curious how she'll redeem herself in part two, which airs May 20th) and good-girl Meg (Willa Fitzgerald), is given more personality. At one point she even declares, "I get great satisfaction from earning a wage," when snubbed by wealthy neighbor Laurie's English visitors for being a working woman.

Maya Hawke is the daughter of Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke.

But it is Hawke who dominates the screen as Jo, at once showcasing the character's awkward charm and fiery spirit.

Coincidently, the actress is shooting season three of "Stranger Things" with Winona Ryder, who portrayed Jo in the successful 1994 film adaptation. However, Hawke manages to leave her own mark on the iconic character. Across the three episodes, she pulls off a feat lacking in most dramatic performances today: sincerity.

This earnestness carries over to the chemistry between Jo and Laurie (Jonah Hauer-King). While so many adaptations have mismanaged and romanticized the pair, here their relationship is finally given some much-needed breathing room.

Laurie is infatuated with Jo, but while Jo values their friendship, her focus is always on what gives her purpose: her writing. In one scene, she declines Laurie's pact to travel, turning back to her writing work.

"Castles in the air need keys," she tells Laurie. "And sometimes I dare to think this is mine".

Rounding out the cast is Angela Lansbury, who, at 92, holds court as a formidable, but more accessible Aunt March, while Emily Watson, who gets top billing, portrays a more vulnerable Marmee.

Purists will be frustrated by the narrative liberties taken by the script, but the biggest flaw in "Little Women" is the pacing; at times the series simply struggles to get on with the story. The ongoing seasonal establishing shots, used to show the passage of time, often slow things down instead of moving the story along.

Stepping out of Kubrick's shadow

The new documentary "Filmworker" tells the story of Leon Vitali, who gave up his acting career to work with the director.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

While the talents of actors, directors, writers and producers are regularly celebrated, the skills of those further down the credits are often overlooked.

"Filmworker" looks to right that wrong, highlighting the career, devotion and eclectic talents of Leon Vitali. A burgeoning actor cast by Stanley Kubrick in "Barry Lyndon," Vitali abandoned his own efforts in front of the camera to become the director's right-hand man.

Vitali was often erroneously called Kubrick's assistant, when he actually thought of himself simply as a filmworker. Tony Zierra's documentary shows that he more than earned that title, too.

"Full Metal Jacket"
WARNER BROS.

Zierra got in touch with Vitali while working on another film, "SK 13," exploring the psychology behind Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut." (The director passed away in 1999.) "At the end of the interviews he asked, 'How would you feel if we made a documentary about you?'" Vitali recalls. "Of course, I had never contemplated it."

The result is a love letter to the unsung heroes of cinema, celebrating the "people who work below the line." It takes a whole team of people to put a movie together, but recognition tends to go only to those at the top. "Filmworker" highlights the meticulous work of bringing a director's vision to life.

"The detail that they have to work with, the effort and the focus that they have to put on a project, however big or little their roles are — that's what I was happy with more than anything else," Vitali says about the film.

"It was more inclusive of all the people that do work so hard behind the camera. And that's hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people, who come to one kind of focus to make the film."

Ask anyone in the movie business, and they'll have a different reason for lauding Kubrick as a master of filmmaking. Having worked so closely with the director, Vitali considers that an intentional part of his process.

"When you look at his canon of work, every single one of those films is different," he says. "Even if it touches upon the same theme, like war. They are all incredibly different and nuanced angles about war. That was what he wanted to do with all of his films."

This also leaves his films open to wildly varying interpretations, which Vitali calls "the beauty of all of Stanley's films. Because you made up your own mind. People still try and find meaning in his films. Which I think is amazing. People can watch them dozens of times and find something new."

As one of the below-the-liners, Vitali is among the rare few who stay through the end of the credits to every film he sees. "That's just my little tribute to people that do so much for the movie, but get little recognition. It's not that everyone should be a star. But it is such a huge collaborative effort."

"Filmworker" is out in New York on Friday, May 11. Vitali and Zierra will hold a Q&A following the 7 p.m. screenings this Friday and Saturday at The Metrograph.

Leon Vitali, seen here on a set from "2001: A Space Odyssey," gave up acting to work with Stanley Kubrick.
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Artist Anselm Kiefer with his work, Uraeus. GETTY IMAGES

Art is *all around*

New York City is bursting with art, and when the weather gets warm it spills out into the parks and plazas for everyone to enjoy. We rounded up the new public art coming this spring and summer. EVA KIS

Uraeus

In our digital world, knowledge is increasingly subjective and books are becoming vulnerable to our diminishing attention. German artist Anselm Kiefer's Uraeus, an open book with 30-foot eagle's wings, is trapped mid-flight over Rockefeller Center as it tries to escape a snake coiling up its mantle. It nods to other mythical figures around the plaza, and is ultimately a hopeful symbol: The wisdom within the book is unleashed toward the heavens, rising above our momentary strife and offering hope of redemption. *Through July 22, Rockefeller Center, courtesy of Public Art Fund*

Agora

Taking its title from the ancient Greek word for "square," Agora challenges the notion of who, what and which ideas belong in a public space. And it doesn't get more public than the elevated garden walkway that is the High Line, where nine artists push the boundaries of what's "proper" in public with works addressing several controversial topics. The signature piece has emerged as Somos 11 Millones/We Are 11 Million, a neon sign displaying the number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. by Andrea Bowers, whose art supports DREAMers, in collaboration with Movimiento Cosecha. *Though March 2019, various locations along the High Line*

Sing for Hope JESSICA STACK

Armors

The medieval grounds of the Met Cloisters are now home to a different kind of jousting. Icelandic sculptor Steinunn Thorarinsdottir, one of the country's first prominent female artists, has crafted three pairs of figures having a tete-a-tete for Armors. Three of her famous androgynous figures, first created in 1976, face off against three "new" suits of armor cast from a 3-D scan of a 16th-century piece from the Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection. *Through Sept. 13, Cloisters Lawn*

Rebirth

One of the fastest growing and changing places in the world, Taiwan has its gaze firmly fixed on tomorrow. The Garment District Alliance brings Rebirth, seven embryo-shaped sculptures ranging in size from 3-10 feet crafted from the recycled elevator cables of Taipei 101, one of the world's tallest buildings. Artist Kang Muxiang's pieces each have their own meaning, with names like The Worried Whale and Serenity, all symbolizing life, our shared humanity, and the importance of breaking free from routines and continuing to learn. *May 17-Sept. 15, Broadway*

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Rendering of Wake and Unmoored by Mel Chin TIMES SQUARE ARTS

pedestrian plazas between 37th and 38th streets

I'm So Happy You're Here

Echoing last summer's Open House exhibit in Central Park, artist Cara Lynch turns the floor of a public plaza in the Bronx's Virginia Park into a colorful, geometric interpretation of the parquet floor. Part of Uniqlo's Park Expressions grant program, I'm So Happy You're Here plays with the ideas of high and low culture and blurs the lines of private and public space by turning a common space into an expensive floor usually found in wealthy private homes.
June 2018-June 2019, 1878 E. 177th St., Bronx

Sing for Hope

One of the perks of urban living is that around every corner, there's some kind of music. Sing for Hope pianos lets you add some joyful noise to the city when 60 pianos — hand-painted by some of New York's biggest stars including the Broadway casts of "Kinky Boots" and "Wicked" — pop up in parks and plazas free for anyone to play. Mark your calendar for the exhibit's unveiling on June 4 at 28 Liberty Plaza, when star performers will help unveil the project. When it's your turn, play them gently, please: At the end of the exhibition, most of the pianos will be donated to schools.
June 4-25, singforhope.org

Absent Monuments

The United States began as a British colony, negating the Native American population. It's a legacy we haven't fully grappled with, and artist Rose DeSiano's Absent Monuments addresses this by asking us to look at ourselves through a series of mirrored obelisks in Rufus King Park in Queens — a borough with its own complex history of rural urbanization, a kind of economic colonization. The obelisks echo all the relics of foreign countries sitting in the museums of their invaders worldwide, and are surrounded by Native American pattern-inspired floral tiles.
June 2018-June 2019, 150-29 Jamaica Ave.

Wake and Unmoored

Manhattan is an island, but this summer a shipwreck will wash up a bit far from its shores. Conceptual artist Mel Chin will drop a full-scale skeletal model of the 19th-century USS Nightingale at the Crossroads of the World, a wreckage like whale bones bleached by time and the ocean. Looming over the wreck is a 21-foot carved figure, scanning the sky above as if she were still charting the ship's course. The work asks us to question where humanity is headed, specifically with the problems posed by climate change. *July 11-Sept. 5, Broadway Plaza between 46th and 47th streets*

See the full list at metro.us

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Katharine McPhee & "Waitress" Perform Sara Bareilles

NBC's "Smash" star Katharine McPhee finally got to make her real-life Broadway debut as the lead in "Waitress," featuring the music of Sara Bareilles. Now, as a one-night-only fundraiser for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, McPhee and the cast of "Waitress" appear at The Green Room 42 to perform a concert of Bareilles' hits, with two shows. VIP packages, including a pre-show Meet & Greet with McPhee, are available. **May 13, 7 & 9:30 p.m., The Green Room 42, 570 10th Ave., $30-$200, thegreenroom42.com**

POP-UP

The Bright Side

Kick up your mood at happiness-focused Brooklyn pop-up The Bright Side (as in "always look on the...") Scientifically speaking, yellow is the happiest color, and Mike's Hard Lemonade is leaning into its brand with a "playful and wondrous multisensory experience" designed to make you happy: comedian Matthew Broussard helping you laugh off your blues, a cotton candy forest where you can taste happiness, and an adult playground. And yes, there are drinks, so all visitors must be 21+. **May 10-12, 5-9 p.m., City Point, 445 Albee Square W., Brooklyn, Free, RSVP at donyc.com**

THEATER

"Handmaid's Tale: The Musical"

Hulu's original series "Handmaid's Tale" has gotten hard to watch this season, so try "Handmaid's Tale: The Musical," a parody that takes the nightmare straight from futuristic Gilead to today's Brooklyn, with a "Girls" spin on the dystopian novel by Margaret Atwood. If you've wondered what you and your friends would do — or you've just craved a stiff drink or good laugh while watching — this might be the musical for you. **May 10, 7 p.m., Caveat, 21A Clinton St., $15-$20, caveat.nyc**

DRAG

A Flawless Night: Long Live the Queen

Some of NYC's best queer entertainers come together to honor Flawless Sabrina, credited with running the first drag show in 1959, mentoring dozens of LGBT artists in the '60s and then becoming the subject of film documentary "The Queen." "A Flawless Night: Long Live the Queen" features Taylor Mac, Justin Vivian Bond, House of Labeija and more celebrating the icon to benefit the Ali Forney Center. **May 10, 8 p.m., Town Hall, 123 W. 43rd St., $50, thetownhall.org**

ON A BOAT

Summer Kickoff Yacht Party

The weather is finally cooperating, so why not get into the summer groove with a three-hour, open-bar cruise around the harbor at Hornblower's Summer Kickoff Yacht Party? That's right: open bar, open water, open air, plus light bites and DJs on all four levels of the Hornblower Infinity. Guests are invited to dress the theme in your most summery outfits, from Hawaiian T-shirts to flip-flops. Don't forget sunglasses and a light jacket to enjoy the outdoor deck. **May 10, 6:30 p.m., Pier 40, 343 West St., $39-$49, timeout.com**

ARTS

[STartUP]

The Art Students League of New York has been turning out masters like Jackson Pollock and Georgia O'Keeffe for 125 years, but this weekend will be the first time it's opened its studios to the public. The free, family-friendly affair will offer workshops by current League artists on printmaking, animation, sculpture and life drawing, tours of its studios, kids activities. **May 11-12, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 215 W. 57 St., $15 adults, $10 children, theartstudentsleague.org**

PLANTS

Tula Plant Pop-Up

Inspired to bring some of that spring green into your apartment but clueless about how to keep it alive? We've all been there. Thankfully, home store Rejuvenation is asking plant company Tula to come by with its mobile greenhouse and host two workshops to teach New Yorkers how to choose plants that will thrive in their shoebox spaces, what kind of care is expected with your busy scheds and (of course) which pot to buy for the type of plant you adopt. **May 11 & 12, 6 p.m. & Noon, Rejuvenation, 3 W. 20th St., Free, rejuvenation.com**

HISTORY

View from the Deep

The Growler was the nation's only public nuclear submarine, and for the first time its Cold War-era legacy is being revealed aboard the Intrepid Air, Sea & Space Museum. The exhibit includes personal diaries from seamen of the time and interactive installations. A View From the Deep: The Submarine Growler & the Cold War is free, while Growler tours are included with museum admission. Partner events include performances, lectures and a screening of Dr. Strangelove. **Opens May 11, Pier 86, 12th Ave. at 46th St., free, intrepidmuseum.org**

BLOCK PARTY

LIC Springs

All of Long Island City comes out to celebrate the season and the community for the fifth year in a row for LIC Springs, an outdoor festival with live performances, family activities, contests (including eating competitions for all ages), local vendors (from restaurants to retail stores) and fitness classes. **May 12, noon-5 p.m., Vernon Blvd. between 46th and 50th Aves., free, licqns.com**

Score a glass of bubbly for you and mom at Brigitte. DIMANCHE CREATIVE

Freebies for Mom

All moms love a good deal, and free is even better. We gathered some great Mother's Day freebies to indulge the woman who deserves it most.

EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

Get Medieval

Now that a queen rules over **Medieval Times**, moms are getting a very special reception: free admission (when accompanied by a paying escort)! Use the code MOM18 when you buy tickets anytime from now through May 13. The castle also offers a Mother's Day package ($20) that includes a Mom's the Queen sash, souvenir glass of bubbly or mimosa and a framed photo. *medievaltimes.com*

Live natural

Moms and daughters who brunch at **De Maria**, the newly minted James Beard Award winner for restaurant design, will be treated to a complimentary bottle of natural red wine to enjoy with their meal. Healthy-leaning in that Instagram-friendly way, brunch here is known for its bowls — though you won't go wrong with the chocolate waffle. *19 Kenmare St., demarianyc.com*

Rosé all day

If the weather is warm, there may as well be only one wine on the menu. For Mother's Day brunch at **Trattoria Italienne**, moms start their meal with a complimentary glass of rosé (get the olive oil bread to pair!) and receive a jar of housemade preserves to take home. *19 W. 24th St., italiennenyc.com*

Work up a sweat

Members of boutique gym **Row House** can bring their moms for a free rowing session this Sunday. Just call or email to reserve a spot in any of its low-impact, high-intensity classes. *rowhousenyc.com*

Bubbly for everyone

Melding the culinary worlds of France and Brazil, it's likely your mom will try something she hasn't before at leafy Lower East Side restaurant **Brigitte**. From Friday through Sunday, mother-daughter and mother-son pairs will receive complimentary glasses of sparkling wine during dinner and brunch. *37 Canal St., brigitteles.com*

A new take on Indian

Tradition serves more as a starting-off point at **Rahi**, Greenwich Village's modern Indian spot. On Mother's Day, stop in for brunch with a free Bombay Bellini for Mom and options like smoked-salmon masala toast or mustard oil bread with chicken pâté. *60 Greenwich Ave, rahinyc.com*

Dessert on the house

Come for the three-course Italian brunch ($35) at **Stella 34 Trattoria**, where you and mom will be treated to Empire State Building views from the sixth-floor dining room. Your meal starts with a complimentary mimosa for each of you and ends with a sweet gift from pastry chef Stefanie Morgado to take home. *151 W. 34th St., patinagroup.com*

Sweet hearts

There are no fresher crêpes and pancakes than the ones coming off a dedicated brunch station at Alain Ducasse's **Benoit**. To end the meal, the restaurant is giving all moms a box of three petits sablés shaped like hearts and filled with strawberry jam. *11:45 a.m.-3 p.m., 60 W. 55th St., benoitny.com*

Enjoy the warmer temps (and a free bottle of natural red wine) at De Maria. KATIE JUNE BURTON

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5 Great things to do in St. Augustine, Florida

Known as Florida's Historic Coast, St. Augustine is one of the state's best-kept secrets.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

Many people consider either Orlando or Miami Florida's biggest tourist destination. But if waiting in long lines for theme park rides at Disney and the overstimulation of Miami's nightlife is not for you, you may want to consider St. Augustine for your next trip to the Sunshine State. This city has a lot to offer — here are five great things to do in St. Augustine, Florida.

1 The St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum

This swashbuckler's museum transports guests to a time when some of the world's most notorious pirates wreaked havoc on the high seas. Planning a tour at the Pirate and Treasure Museum is a great option for taking both your family and friends on an entertaining and educational journey back 300 years to the Golden Age of Piracy. Arghhh!
For tickets and tour info, visit: thepiratemuseum.com/

St. George Street in the Colonial Quarter.

2 St. Augustine's Colonial Quarter

Founded in 1565 by Spanish explorers, St. Augustine is known as our country's oldest city. You can get a big slice of the city's history in the impossibly charming Colonial Quarter. By taking a Colonial Experience: Living History Tour, you will see re-creations of a simpler time with blacksmith and musket demonstrations. The Colonial Quarter is located on the popular pedestrian-only St. George Street, lined with restaurants, shops, and historic buildings.
For group tours, call: 904-342-2865.

Enjoy yourself on St. Augustine's beautiful beaches.

3 The World Golf Hall of Fame

You know, it takes a lot to book and plan a vacation. So why not give Dad a day to learn a little golfing history on this trip? At the World Golf Hall of Fame, he'll be able to test his skills at an 18-hole outdoor putting course as well as explore some of the world's most renowned courses with the Hall of Fame's interactive Golf Simulator. Once he's done that, he can check out the Hall's member locker room, including clubs and artifacts from 22 different Hall of Famers.
For tickets, visit: worldgolfhalloffame.org.

4 San Sebastian Winery

If you need to unwind after a long day of soaking up the sights, you can soak up some fantastic wine and live music at the San Sebastian Winery. Located on King Street, this award-winning winery is the perfect spot if you are looking for the sip-after-sip wine tasting experience or just to simply chill out to some live jazz with a glass of red or white.
For tasting information and music schedule, visit: sansebastianwinery.com.

5 Don't forget about the beach!

It's easy to get wrapped up in all of the great touristy activities that St. Augustine has to offer. But you should keep in mind that it is also home to some of the most pristine beaches in the entire state. So lather up with some suntan lotion, grab that book you've been meaning to read and carve out some time for some serious UV ray therapy by the ocean. It's your vacation. You deserved this.

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6 Ways to celebrate the royal wedding in London

If you happen to find yourself in London during the royal wedding, we have some great tips for you to enjoy the proceedings in style.

EMMA E. FORREST
letters@metro.us

If you've not received an invite and you're not one of the thousands of "commoners" set to join Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at the keenly anticipated royal wedding May 19, all is not lost. Here are six great ways to take in the royal celebrations.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will be tying the knot on May 19th at the Windsor Castle in London ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

1 Watch it in Windsor

No invite? No problem. You can still watch from the streets of Windsor, home to HRH Queen Elizabeth's famous castle. The couple will marry at midday in St. George's Chapel in the castle grounds before touring the streets of Windsor in a carriage. Visit the castle itself to learn about the royal couple's links to Windsor and the history of the Royal family or take a special "Royal Wedding" bus tour (*TheOriginalTour.com*). Channel your inner aristo and stay at the recently refurbished and elegant De Vere Beaumont Estate in nearby Old Windsor. *phcompany.com/de-vere/beaumont-estate*

2 Sail the Thames free

You can see London's site from the river for free on the day of the wedding – if you're called Harry or Meghan. Thames Clippers is offering a free River Roamer ticket for hop-on-hop-off travel between 17 piers on the River Thames to anyone sharing a first name with either of the royal couple. *mbnathamesclippers.com*

3 Peek in a palace

After tying the knot, our royal lovebirds are expected to move into Apartment 1A on the Kensington Palace estate in London. You can't snoop inside the couple's home, but you can visit parts of Kensington Palace

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Here's the captionTake to the streets and watch the Royal Wedding in Windsor.

as well as see Harry's mum's glamorous wardrobe on show at its "Diana: Her Fashion Story" exhibition (*hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace/*). While you're at it, hit Buckingham Palace too, which is open only three months a year. *royalcollection.org.uk/visit*

4 Visit royal London

London is full of historical sites, many of which have a strong connection to the royal family. Save money and time getting into the city's top royal spots including Kensington Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and The Tower of London — as well as Windsor Castle — with The London Pass. *One-day London Pass from $92 per adult and $68 per child, londonpass.com*

Set sail on the River Thames free courtesy of the Thames Clippers.

5 Take tea like a royal

Treat your kids like royalty with a junior afternoon tea at The Milestone Hotel & Residences. The five-star hotel's Little Prince and Princess Afternoon Tea menu includes kid-friendly finger sandwiches, freshly-baked scones with Devonshire clotted cream, cakes, and hot chocolate. Kids also get to decorate their own cupcakes as part of the experience. *$34 per child, milestonehotel.com*

6 Go on a royal honeymoon

Royal-watchers are speculating that the newlyweds might head to Africa to recover from their mega-wedding. Prince Harry's made no secret of his love for Namibia, and there are rumors that they'll do a safari from the brand new luxury six-tent Hoanib Valley Camp in the desert of northwestern Namibia. It is the perfect location to take desert drives to track desert-adapted lions, rhinos, elephants, and giraffes, and to meet local communities. *£500 per person per night including accommodation, meals, local drinks and daily activities (aardvarksafaris.co.uk*

SPORTS

TODAY'S GAMES

AT

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GAME 7
8PM, NBCSN

The curious case of Devin Mesoraco

Why the Mets could be big winners in the trade that sent Matt Harvey to Cincinnati.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Mets catcher Devin Mesoraco was traded by the Reds for Matt Harvey on Tuesday night. Could he be the contributing catcher the team has needed? GETTY IMAGES

The New York Mets did something they probably should have done three years ago: trade pitcher Matt Harvey.

After designating the 29-year-old for assignment on Saturday, general manager Sandy Alderson dealt the pitcher formally known as "The Dark Knight" to the Cincinnati Reds for catcher Devin Mesoraco.

On optics alone, it looks like a pretty even deal. Both Harvey and Mesoraco are 29 and have had promising careers derailed by the injury bug often over the past three seasons.

While Harvey's Tommy John surgery and Thoracic Outlet Syndrome are well-documented here in New York, Mesoraco was limited to just 95 games from 2015-2017 due to left hip surgery, a torn labrum in his left shoulder and a fractured foot.

It's been a difficult journey back for the catcher, who was an All-Star in 2014 after belting 25 home runs while driving in 80 RBI with a .273 batting average. Mesoraco entered the 2018 season as Tucker Barnhart's backup, appearing in 18 games with Cincinnati despite battling a bruised wrist in the process, and he hasn't shown an ability to shake off the rust quite yet.

In the 114 games he's played in since his stellar 2014 campaign, he's hitting just .194 with 7 home runs and 20 RBI.

But in regards to the Mets, desperate times call for desperate measures as the team has received little from the catcher's spot after Travis d'Arnaud went down for the season and Kevin Plawecki broke his hand. They've relied on Tomas Nido and Jose Lobaton in the meantime and haven't gotten any sort of offensive production. Nido is batting .135 while Lobaton has a .163 batting average of his own. In the 34 combined games they've played in, the emergency catchers have recorded a combined 12 hits and four RBI.

This season, Mets catchers rank 29th in Wins Above Replacement (WAR). That's just not good enough for a team that could legitimately challenge for the National League East this season.

Simply looking at the numbers since 2015, it doesn't look like Mesoraco could provide much of a boost at the position, but this is the first time since that All-Star season that he is healthy. He'll once again become a No. 1 catcher with New York where he'll begin to gradually acclimate back to seeing MLB pitching.

Defensively, Mesoraco provides an upgrade in how he calls a game and how he handles pitchers. It was immediately evident when he helped Zack Wheeler navigate through a dicey situation that included a bases-loaded jam during the sixth inning of Wednesday's loss to the Reds.

At the end of the day though, it's all about offense. It's doubtful that he'll be able to reproduce the numbers from 2014, but it's a definite improvement toward the bottom of the Mets lineup instead of rolling out two flat-out liabilities in Nido and Lobaton.

Mesoraco is only signed through the 2018 season, so if he doesn't produce, the Mets will let him walk in free agency. If he can improve things behind the plate though, Mesoraco could very well be the first legitimate catcher the Mets have had since Paul Lo Duca.

Either way, the Mets were still able to get rid of Matt Harvey and got something in return, which is an automatic win.

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Knicks want to draft wing talent

Team president Steve Mills disclosed that he is looking for Carmelo Anthony's replacement.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Already with a new coach, the Knicks look committed to going after Mikal Bridges at the 2018 NBA Draft. GETTY IMAGES

Things are slowly taking shape at Madison Square Garden as the New York Knicks introduced new head coach David Fizdale to the city's media Tuesday morning.

While he stressed rebuilding the culture of winning with an organization that has been a doormat of the NBA for much of the past 20 years and working with Kristaps Porzingis, team president Steve Mills offered a glimpse of what the team might do at the 2018 NBA Draft.

"We need talent," Mills said on MSG Networks. "We need athletic players, and the [draft] position will determine who we pick, but in an ideal world, we'd like to get a wing player."

To translate Mills' comments, he wants to find Carmelo Anthony's replacement at the small forward as a talent who can create offense from almost anywhere on the floor.

Finishing 29-53 last season, the Knicks have just a 6.2 percent chance to jump into the top-three picks of the draft. They'll likely pick toward the lower end of the top 10, around eighth or ninth.

However, a deeper draft class will provide the Knicks with an opportunity to address the need with some top-level talent.

Here is who could be available for them:

MIKAL BRIDGES, SF VILLANOVA

At 6-foot-7, Bridges provides premier length and athleticism on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. Over his three years at Villanova, he's developed into one of the best perimeter defenders in the nation to one that brings a dangerous offensive game from beyond the arc to boot. It's made him one of the most attractive two-way players in this year's draft class and likely one of the Knicks' top prospects to watch.

MILES BRIDGES, SF/PF MICHIGAN STATE

While Miles is an inch shorter than Mikal, he brings a much more explosive game. The Michigan State product can jump out of the gym with highlight-reel-worthy dunks and brings an aggressive style of play to every possession. The problem is that Bridges' size is working against him as he likely can't be a starting power forward in the NBA. That means he needs to vastly improve his perimeter offense in order to lay the foundation for a successful NBA career as a small forward.

MICHAEL PORTER, SF MISSOURI

If the Knicks find a bit of luck at the NBA Draft Lottery and shoot up the board into the top three, Missouri's Michael Porter could very well become a legitimate target. Porter was considered the can't-miss prospect entering his freshman year at Mizzou last season, but injuries robbed him of most of his time there even though it did little to hurt his draft stock. This is an elite athlete and shooter in a 6-foot-10 frame.

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NYRB'S MARSCH SHOULD BE USMNT COACH

OPINION

KRISTIAN DYER
@KristianRDyer

After Saturday's 4-0 win by the New York Red Bulls over New York City FC, Jesse Marsch must be considered a front-runner for the (still) vacant head coach position with the United States national team.

Few in the pool have his resume. Few in the pool can compete with what he has done in MLS the past handful of seasons.

This past weekend's win over an NYCFC side that was top of the league coming into the match showed the growth of Marsch in what is now his fourth year at Red Bull Arena. The one criticism against him during this time has been a stubborn adherence to his tactical plan. But it was his tactics that won the day against his crosstown rivals, ending a three-match winless streak by his Red Bulls against NYCFC.

Not only did the Red Bulls show up with more heart and fight in the game's opening 45 minutes — a testament to Marsch — but their tactical plan worked to perfection.

The type of gameplan that was a showcase for what Marsch can potentially do with the United States national team.

Marsch's side struck twice in the games first four minutes to silence the several hundred NYCFC fans in the supporters section in Red Bull Arena's second tier. But it was more than a strong start from the Red Bulls that stood out. The home side pressed and harried NYCFC into turnovers and hapless long balls as their backline had little time to build out.

The midfield had to drop deep to the point that NYCFC's creative midfielder, Maxi Moralez, was essentially playing as a No. 6 to get time on the ball. David Villa, arguably the best striker in MLS history, didn't register a single shot and had just one chance created in the match.

Jesse Marsch is a strong candidate for the U.S. national team job. GETTY IMAGES

It was a brilliant tactical plan by Marsch to take NYCFC out of their effective rhythm and flow. When they are on, New York's blue team can play some truly beautiful soccer.

Marsch has grown as a head coach, this much is clear. His Supporters Shield with the Red Bulls in 2015 seems distant but the team continues to do well. Even in a rebuilding season last year where one of the league's youngest teams got even younger, he still managed a trip to the U.S. Open Cup Finals, a playoff appearance.

This year's trip to the CONCACAF Champions League semifinals, where they beat Mexican side Tijuana along the way and nearly eliminated eventual champion Chivas points to Marsch's understanding of how soccer is played in this region. It is a knowledge that can help get the United States back into the World Cup.

A former national team assistant under Bob Bradley at the 2010 World Cup, Marsch would be ready for this next step. He certainly understands the American player as both Bradley's right-hand man as an assistant and also as someone who has forged a strong identity within MLS.

He's also done so on a budget, his team's salary routinely among the lowest in MLS and dwarfed by the likes of Toronto, Atlanta and Seattle.

The rest of the coaching candidates, while strong, don't necessarily have the depth of understanding of being a head coach while also finding international success as Marsch did in the Champions League this year and as an assistant coach. He checks off the boxes of being a former player in MLS, a head coach who has found domestic and now international success as well as being a motivator.

Marsch also would come to the national team at the right time. There is a youth movement within the program, not unlike the one that he has undertaken here in New York. Look at the success of former Red Bulls defender Matt Miazga in Holland but on loan from Chelsea and Tyler Adams with the national team to see his clear-cut vision for developing young players.

Someone could potentially emerge from the World Cup as a candidate to coach the national team, some unthinkable name drawn by the potential for the United States in 2022 as well as the lifestyle of being the head coach in this country. But few if any have found the success that Marsch has these few years in MLS, both within the league and now internationally.

Saturday's win, perhaps, might be his last Hudson River Derby as a call to his country might not be far away.

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Approved by the NYU School of Medicine
IRB #s15-01480 PI: Marya Gwadz, PhD

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Columbia University IRB
IRB-AAAO2006
IRB Approval Date: 01/31/2018
for use until: 01/30/2019

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
QUEENS COUNTY
PENNYMAC CORP.,
Plaintiff against RICARDO D. MENDOZA, et al Defendants
Attorney for Plaintiff(s)
Fein, Such & Crane, LLP
28 East Main Street, Suite 1800, Rochester, NY 14614
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff (s).
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale Entered April 4, 2018 I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, New York 11435, in Courtroom #25 on June 1, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
Premises known as 142-51 122nd Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11436. Block 12040 Lot 129.
ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Queens, County of Queens, City and State of New York.
Approximate Amount of Judgment is $657,905.65 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 12885/08.
David Cohen, Esq. Referee
PNMJC011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1309942, for Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 2224 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306. Richmond County, for on premises consumption. TMCD Inc. d/b/a How Greek It Is.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number TBA, for Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Beer, Wine & Cider at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 80 DeKalb Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11201. Kings County, for on premises consumption. Smashburger Acquisition - NY LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending, for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine, Beer & Cider at retail in a Restaurant, under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 412 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10013. New York County, for on premises consumption. Dig Inn 412 Greenwich Street LLC d/b/a Dig Inn.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending, for On Premise Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider at retail in a Restaurant, under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at The Shops at Columbus Circle, 10 Columbus Circle, Unit 301, New York, NY 10019. New York County, for on premises consumption. MoMo NB 3, LLC d/b/a MoMofuku Noodle Bar

The annual return of the Bell-Hoving Family Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2017 is available at its principal office at 150 East 73rdStreet,NewYork,NY10021 (914) 709-1100 for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days hereof. The Foundation's principal manager is Nancy Hoving.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Cristo Rey Barber Shop, LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/15/2018. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o 137 East 110th Street, Front 1, New York, NY 10029. Purpose: Barber Shop.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1310024, for Liquor, Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Beer & Wine at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 40-09 Bell Blvd., Bayside, NY 11361. Queens County, for on premises consumption. TKO Beverages LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1309125, for Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 382 8th Ave., New York, NY 10001. New York County, for on premises consumption. St Augustine Corp d/b/a La Gusto Pizza.

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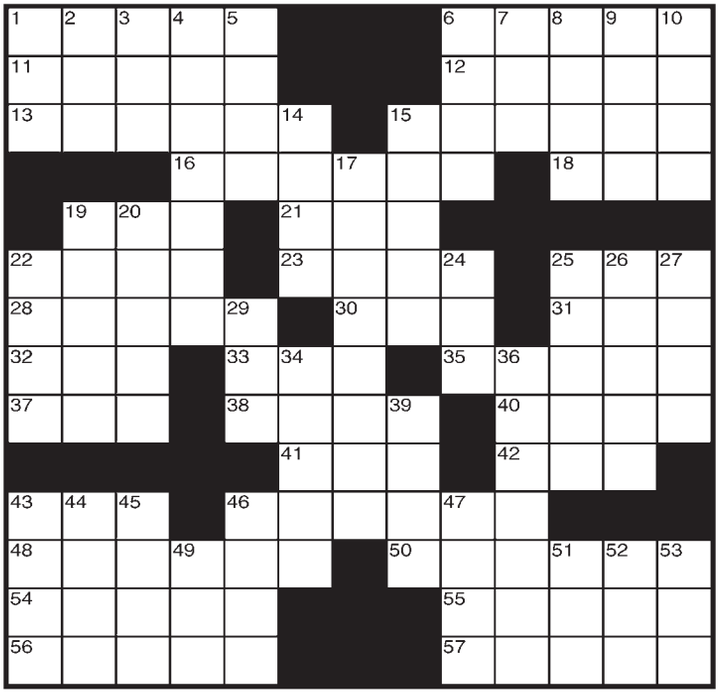

metro.us/crossword

ACROSS
1 Tall and lanky
6 Firms up
11 D-Day beach
12 Inbox filler
13 Jaime Sommersfor one
15 Plaster
16 Junk food
18 Barely scrape by
19 Wrestler's pad
21 Chaotic place
22 Gloomy atmosphere
23 Panache 25 Skippy rival
28 Gives a thumbs-up
30 Flamenco shout
31 Hail, to Caesar
32 Rare mineral
33 Fortify
35 Hunting knife
37 Pizarro's quest
38 Jeer at
40 Comb producers
41 Through
42 Bradley and Sneed
43 Visibly embarrassed
46 Per annum
48 Aftershock
50 Rackets
54 Gauguin's prop
55 No-see-ums
56 Offend the nostrils
57 Nash of humorous poems

DOWN
1 Transport for Sinbad
2 Singer -- Grant
3 Seize suddenly
4 Like a haunted house
5 It's spun
6 Hot tub inlets
7 Grounded Aussie
8 Tighten a corset
9 Beat soundly
10 -- -eyed
14 Watch the stars
15 "Bottoms up!"
17 Bogota's land
19 Productive one
20 Crockett's last stand
22 Walt Kelly strip
24 Bird beak
25 Chewed the fat
26 Dorm coverers
27 Service charges
29 Droop
34 "A -- Runs Through It"
36 Doing as told
39 Get by effort
43 Hwys.
44 Latin I verb
45 Hubby of Lucy
46 Egg core
47 Corporate symbol
49 Uncles and brothers
51 Heartrending
52 When Paris sizzles
53 9-digit no.

metro.us/sudoku

easy

8	5				3		2	
6			1			3	4	
	1			5	4			
7	6			4		8		
				2				
		8		9			1	2
			2	6			8	
	2	7			8			3
	8		4				7	1

hard

		2	5	4			6	
8	4				6			
					2		4	5
	3		8				2	6
4								7
5	2				1		8	
6	1		2					
			6				7	4
	9			8	5	6		

metro.us/games

PAR SCORE 110-120

E1	T1	L1	S1	L1	E1	P3	1st Letter Double
R1	D2	R1	I1	Y4	I1	T1	5th Letter Triple
C3	L1	H4	Y4	Y4	H4	N1	Double Word Score
H4	R1	A1	E1	E1	T1	W4	

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

NEW
TURN BACK TO PAGE 16 FOR HOROSCOPES

Yesterday's Scrabble answers.

V4 O1 L1 U1 M3 E1	RACK 1 =	11
W4 E1 I1 G2 H4 S1	RACK 2 =	13
S1 U1 N1 L1 E1 S1 S1	RACK 3 =	64
G2 A1 R1 B3 A1 G2 E1	RACK 4 =	83
PAR SCORE 110-120	JUDD'S TOTAL	171

Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Seven-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Yesterday's Crosswords

B	L	I	S	S			U	N	U	S	E	D		
Y	O	O	H	O	O		B	O	N	I	E	R		
U	S	U	R	P	S		O	U	T	C	R	Y		
			E	S	P		A	N	Y					
		O	D	D		R	U	T		I	M	P		
L	A	O		B	E	N		S	N	A	R	E		
O	T	T		A	Y	E		E	G	R	E	T		
V	E	I	L	S		V	E	E		A	P	O		
E	R	N	E	S		E	L	K		C	A	N		
	S	G	T		I	N	N		B	A	Y			
			T	O	N		I	C	E					
A	T	T	I	R	E		N	O	T	I	C	E		
L	O	A	N	E	R		O	B	T	A	I	N		
F	O	R	G	O	T			S	E	N	D	S		

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